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REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 11, 12 and 20 have been amended and claims 21 and 22 have been added.

I. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 8 and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,628,934 to Pohndorf et al., ("Pohndorf"). Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present invention are patentably distinguishable from Pohndorf '934 and the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a connection system for use in coupling a multi-polar medical electrical lead to a source of electrical energy that includes a first port to selectably electrically couple to at least two of at least three conductors of the lead, and a second port to electrically couple to another one of the at least three conductors.

As described and illustrated in FIGS. 1-7, Pohndorf teaches multiple sockets for receiving a single connector in each socket. Pohndorf does not teach a first port shaped to selectably receive two of a first connecting member, a second connecting member and a third connecting member, and electrically couple the corresponding ones of a first conductor, a second conductor and a third conductor to one another, and a second port shaped to receive the one of the first connecting member, the second connecting member and the third connecting member other than the two of the first connecting member, the second connecting member and the third connecting member and electrically couple to the one of the first conductor, the second conductor and the third conductor other than the corresponding ones of the first conductor, the second conductor and the third conductor, as set forth in independent claims 1, 11 and 12. Therefore, independent claim 1 and claims 2, 3 and 8 dependent thereon, independent claim 11 and independent claim 12 and claims 13 and 14

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dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Pohndorf. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,662,692 to Paspas et al. ("Paspas") in view of Pohndorf. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Paspas teaches connector cavities for receiving a single connector in each cavity, along with set screws that can be tightened to activate a conductive surface of a housing.

Since both Paspas and Pohndorf teach a single connector in each cavity or socket, neither Paspas or Pohndorf teach or suggest inserting multiple connectors in a single cavity. For this reason, neither Paspas or Pohndorf, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, a first port shaped to selectably receive two of a first connecting member, a second connecting member and a third connecting member, and electrically couple the corresponding ones of a first conductor, a second conductor and a third conductor to one another, and a second port shaped to receive the one of the first connecting member, the second connecting member and the third connecting member other than the two of the first connecting member, the second connecting member and the third connecting member and electrically couple to the one of the first conductor, the second conductor and the third conductor other than the corresponding ones of the first conductor, the second conductor and the third conductor, as set forth in independent claims 1, 11 and 12. Therefore, independent claim 1 and claims 2-6, 8 and 9 dependent thereon, independent claim 11 and independent claim 12 and claims 13-20 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Pohndorf. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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III. Allowable Subject Matter/New Claims Added

Claims 7 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claims 21 and 22 have been added and correspond to claims 7 and 10 written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 21 and 22 be entered and allowance of claims 21 and 22 is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

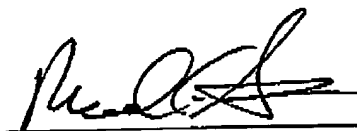
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to those matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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